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## **SCHOLARSHIPS TOTTALLING \$74,000 ANNOUNCED FROM LOCAL MENTOR PROGRAM**

Jacksonville, FL - The ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida held a year-end celebration on April 28 at The Schultz Center, where local high school students presented final projects and 20 scholarships were distributed.

Founded during the 2006-2007 school year, the ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida helps high school students explore potential careers in architecture, construction and engineering. Students are mentored by industry professionals, while working in teams to create practical solutions to one of three “real-world” projects. Students submitted proposals in early April and presented their final projects for jurors last month at the Schultz Center.

The winning teams for Best Proposal included Creekside High School Team #1 for School of the Future, Home School Team for City Park / Open Space, and Bishop Kenny High School Team #2 for Community Support Facility. The jurors awarded Best Presentation to three winning teams including Creekside High School Team #1 for School of the Future, Atlantic Coast High School for City Park / Open Space, and Creekside High School Team #2 for Community Support Facility. The final award of the day was for the Best Overall, which combined the proposal and presentation scoring, was awarded to Creekside High School Team #2.

Over the past 17 years, the Northeast Florida Chapter of the ACE Mentor Program has offered scholarships to students planning to attend post-secondary education and training leading to careers in architecture, engineering, construction or the skilled trades. This year, the nonprofit organization gave \$74,000 in scholarships to NEFL students. Student recipients from Clay, Duval and St. Johns County high schools (HS) demonstrated exceptional work ethic and relationship building with industry professionals. The named scholarship recipients included:

- Kendall Reckamp from Creekside HS, CMiC Allen Berg Memorial Scholar
- Lauren Castillo from Creekside HS, HCA Healthcare Scholar
- Erin Philip from Creekside HS, ACE Dunk Tank Scholar
- Joslyn Rill from Bishop Kinny HS, ABC Women's Council Scholar
- Ananya Varde from Creekside HS, Baptist Health Scholar
- Grace Pendley from Bishop Kenny HS, Gilbane Scholar
- Brandon Shaw from Creekside HS, S. David Painting Scholar
- Bethelle Aurie Orcino from Middleburg HS, American-Electrical Contracting Scholar
- Erin McCoy from Bartram Trail HS, ABC First Coast Scholar
- Gabriel Edenfield from Middleburg HS, Meyer Najem Scholar
- Daria Durham from Pedro Menendez HS, Whiting Turner Scholar
- Gwynnyth Williams from Creekside HS, Russell Rowland Scholar
- Gehrig Van De Water from Orange Park HS, Haskell Scholar
- Carter Smith from Creekside HS, Tritt & Associates Scholar
- Anthony Bismi from Nease HS, JB Coxwell Scholar

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- Celine Taylor from Nease HS, Haskell Scholar
- Sarah O'Neal from Riverside HS, ACE Founders Scholar
- Cash Horswill from Atlantic Coast HS, ABC First Coast Scholar

Northeast Florida Junior Mentors, Anthony Andrade and Taylor Droubie were also awarded scholarships. Anthony, a mentor at Pedro Menendez HS, is pursuing a career in construction management through the University of North Florida. Taylor is a mentor at his alma mater Bishop Kenny (2019). He is in UNF's Construction Management program while working at Haskell's Steel Shop.

This year, 85 mentors from various ACE local firms offered their experience and expertise at eleven different locations including Atlantic Coast High School, Bartram Trail High School, Bishop Kenny High School, Creekside High School, Middleburg High School, Orange Park High School, Nease High School, Pedro Menendez High School, Riverside High School, Toco Creek High School and a Home School Team.

ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is currently looking for mentors, guest speakers, and sponsors. To learn more, visit [www.acementor.org/northeast-fl](http://www.acementor.org/northeast-fl).

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ACE Mentor Program of Northeast Florida is a 501(c)(3) after-school mentoring organization on a mission to engage, excite and inspire high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction.